

NEW AND INTERESTING BUTTERFLY RECORDS FROM NORTHERN QUEENSLAND AND TORRES STRAIT

By G. A. Wood

P.O. Box 122, Atherton, N. Qld, 4883

Introduction

Records of interest and notes on the biology of some of the butterflies of north Queensland and Torres Strait are presented below.

Family HesperIIDae

Netrocoryne repanda expansa Waterhouse.—Philip Hill, Iron Range, October, 1978. Previously known as far north as Mt White, Coen, October, 1976, Sands (Monteith & Hancock, 1977). This record extends its range 130 km further north. I have found larvae of this species at Coen and Iron Range on a number of species of Lauraceae.

Mimene atropatene (Fruhstorfer).—Previously known only from two specimens taken in May 1973 and August 1977 at Iron Range (Miller 1975; Monteith & Hancock, 1977). Seven specimens have been taken between March and June, 1980 to 1983. This species appears to be more common in the wetter months, four of the seven specimens were taken in March.

Family PapilionIDae

Protographium leosthenes leosthenes (Doubleday).—Philip Hill, Iron Range, December, 1974. Not previously known from Iron Range, the closest record being from specimens taken by Moulds on Mt White, Coen, January, 1964, (Monteith & Hancock, 1977). Males of this species were hilltopping with males of *Graphium aristeus parmatum* (Gray).

Eleppone anactus (W. S. Macleay).—Many specimens sighted at Bamaga in May, 1985. Kuranda, 950 km to the south, is the former northern-most locality for this species (Common & Waterhouse, 1981).

Papilio aegus aegus Donovan.—Single specimens of form *beatrix* were taken at Iron Range in August 1983, Bamaga in May 1985 and Iron Range in December 1985. The Iron Range female of 1983 was induced to oviposit and female progeny of this and its succeeding generations were two-thirds *beatrix* and one-third normal form. It is interesting that on Murray Island where the race *ormenus* is found flying with *Taenaris artemis jamesi* Butler, the majority of females observed were form *beatrix*. Progeny of two normal females from Murray Island produced no form *beatrix*.

Family PierIDae

Delias nysa nivira Waterhouse and Lyell.—Usually regarded as a rare butterfly, numbers of specimens of this subspecies have been taken on the Tozer Range during the winter months.

Pieris rapae rapae (Linnaeus).—One specimen taken, but not kept, Mt White, Coen, April, 1983. Previously unknown north of the Atherton Tableland (Common & Waterhouse, 1981), 400 km to the south.

Family Nymphalidae

Hypolimnas anomola albula (Wallace).—1 female, Iron Range, March 1983, 1 male, Iron Range, December 1985. Known previously from two males, one at Port Darwin and the other at Cape York (Gibb, 1977; Common & Waterhouse, 1981). The Iron Range records extend its range 400 km south from Lockerbie and is evidence for the species being a resident of Australia and not a vagrant.

Hypolimnas antilope (Cramer).—1 female, Yorke Island, March 1986. Previously known only from Murray Island within Australian limits. This female deposited a mass of eggs on *Pipturis argenteus* (Forst. f.) Wedd. Urticaceae, on which she was confined. These proved to be infertile.

Family Lycaenidae

Hypochrysops cleon Grose-Smith.—1 female, Gordon Ck bridge, Iron Range, July 1981. This is probably the first female taken in Australia.

Jalmenus eichorni Staudinger.—Many specimens taken Laura, August 1981, Mt Garnett, January 1983, Mt Molloy, June 1985. The previous southern-most record of this species was Trevarthen Creek, 27 km south of Cooktown (Common & Waterhouse, 1981). The Mt Garnett record extends its distribution 230 km further south.

Petrelaea dana (Niceville).—Many specimens were taken on Yorke Island, March 1986 and a single specimen on Darnley Island, April 1986. This is usually regarded as a rare species.

Jamides amarauge Druce.—Many specimens Yorke Island, March 1986. Three specimens of this species were taken on Thursday Island, April 1986, extending its range 130km westward from the islands of eastern Torres Strait.

Catochrysops amasea amasea Waterhouse and Lyell.—1 male, Iron Range, August 1981. On the Australian mainland known previously from Cape York (Common & Waterhouse, 1981), 400 km north of Iron Range.

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